

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 12-16 and 19-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 12-16, and 19-21 are amended, and claims 22-25 are added. Support for these amendments to the claims can be found, at least, in pages 21 and 22 of Applicants' specification. No new matter is added.

I. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 12-16, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0030840 to Itaki et al. ("Itaki"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 10, as amended, recite an image processing apparatus having an acquisition component "which acquires individual instruction data from process information, the process information representing a series of processes, the series of processes including a first process to be performed to a document data by the image processing apparatus and a second process to be performed by another image service processing apparatus to the document data to which the first process is performed." Claims 8, 12 and 21, as amended, recite an image processing method "which can acquire an individual instruction data from process information, the process information representing a series of processes, the series of processes including a first process to be performed to a document data by the document processing apparatus and a second process to be performed by another image service processing apparatus to the document data to which the first process is performed." Itaki does not disclose these features.

Using the rejection of claim 1 for illustrative purposes, Itaki discloses a method of displaying a screen for operating a plurality of image output devices that each has different attributes. See Abstract of Itaki. Itaki further discloses that attribute information includes network addresses or locations of printers 16D. See paragraphs [0005] and [0017] of Itaki.

In other words, the system in Itaki only specifies attributes of printers (information about printers) and it does not describe any information regarding the display devices. As such, Itaki does not disclose the ability to acquire an individual instruction data from process information where one image processing apparatus performs one process to the document data and another image processing apparatus performs another process to the document data.

By contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites an acquisition component "which acquires individual instruction data from process information, the process information representing a series of processes, the series of processes including a first process to be performed to document data by the image processing apparatus and a second process to be performed by another image service processing apparatus to the document data to which the first processes is performed." Itaki does not disclose or suggest this feature of claim 1, nor does it disclose the above-mentioned feature of claims 8, 10, 12, and 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 8, 10, 12, and 21, and claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 13-16, 19, and 20 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

II. New Claims

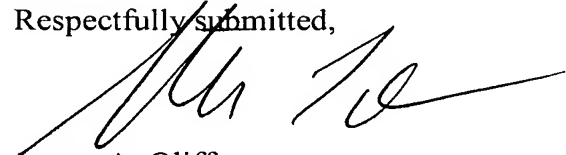
Newly added claims 22-25 depend from claims 1, 8, 12, and 21. As explained above, Itaki does not disclose the features recited in claims 1, 8, 12, and 21. Therefore, claims 22-25 are in condition for allowance based on their dependence from claims 1, 8, 12 and 21, and for the separately patentable subject matter they recite.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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